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the sources and character of the population. This chapter forms an interesting picture of the frontier characteristics of the period.

The volume conforms rigidly to the accepted canons of historical workmanship. The text is bulwarked by upwards of two thousand footnotes; the table of contents occupies thirty-one pages, the appendix thirty-four, the bibliography fifty, the index thirty-six, the plates twenty-nine, the acknowledgments and preface seven. Despite the somewhat formidable appearance which it engenders, this elaborateness adds considerably to the usefulness of the work. The bibliography, containing some seven hundred titles, is conveniently classified. The author has worked largely with materials that are difficult to use scientifically. For example, county and other local histories, as well as pioneer reminiscences, have been extensively utilized. In the writing of social history materials of this character are often the only recourse of the student, and if used critically may be of great value. The author lists forty-three local histories, all of which he has used. These sources, as in the study of the settlement of the inland counties of Oakland, Washtenaw, and Lenawee, for example, appear to have been used with careful discrimination, and have yielded excellent results. A number of happily chosen illustrations add to the interest and value of the text.

In his preface the author states that his aim has been "to be logical, accurate and clear, rather than literary." In general this aim has been successfully carried out. The work is an important contribution to the history of Michigan and of the west. Other volumes in the University series will be awaited with interest.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

*Land tenure in the United States with special reference to Illinois.* By

Charles Leslie Stewart, Ph.D., instructor in economics, university of Illinois. [University of Illinois studies in the social sciences, vol. v, no. 3] (Urbana: university of Illinois, 1916. 135 p. \$0.75)

This monograph covers a field which is likely to become more intensively worked in all the states, especially in those which have been formed out of the public domain. With reference to Illinois the treatment of Mr. Stewart is very thorough, but the preliminary chapter upon land tenure in the United States as a whole is merely a sketch. The chapter title makes this plain but the book title perhaps leads the reader to expect more. As to Illinois, the treatment is arranged under four heads: (1) tendencies in the agricultural economy of Illinois; (2) changes in land tenure; (3) a description of farm operations; (4) the relation of tenure to rural economy and social conditions. The work is largely buttressed with statistics, in many cases graphically presented, particularly in three

full-page charts and eighteen shaded county outline maps of Illinois. There are also an adequate bibliography and index.

ST. GEORGE L. SIOUSSAT

*Illinois in 1818.* By Solon Justus Buck. [Illinois centennial publications, introductory volume] (Springfield: Illinois centennial commission, 1917. 362 p.)

With praiseworthy foresight on the part of those concerned active preparations for the suitable celebration in 1918 of the centennial of statehood for Illinois were begun several years ago. An important and commendable part of the preparation for the projected observance of the centennial was the preparation, under the editorial supervision of Clarence W. Alvord, of a comprehensive history of Illinois from the earliest times to the present. The history thus projected is to extend to five volumes, each devoted to the exposition of a suitable section of the entire period covered. Preliminary to this enterprise, yet logically a part of it, is the issuance of the volume under review, the specific function of which is to make clear to the reader of 1918 what were the several component elements entering into the Illinois of 1818. Although the volume appears under the auspices of the Illinois centennial commission the same group of men who control the publications of the Illinois historical library are responsible for the present enterprise, and to them is due criticism of it, whether laudatory or the reverse in character.

For the conception of this thoroughgoing historical undertaking in the interests of the state of Illinois, only a commensurate degree of admiration can be entertained. Except for the preliminary volume, the manner of its execution still remains to be revealed. My present task is to evaluate, as correctly as may be, *Illinois in 1818*. That unqualified commendation cannot be accorded the work is cause for genuine regret; that a useful and dignified volume has been added to the lengthening list of mid-western local histories, it is a pleasure to record.

Physically considered, the book is well bound and presents an attractive exterior appearance. Within the covers, however, the characteristic workmanship of the public printer is sufficiently evident. Thus, the pagination is carried on the title page of the volume as well as elsewhere, — a matter of trivial importance in itself, but indicative of an attitude on the part of printers of public documents with which the reviewer, unfortunately, is all too familiar. The numerous illustrations in the book are for the most part clearly executed; but if any principle governed their selection and arrangement, a careful perusal of the volume has failed to disclose it. At page 138 occur views of a log tavern and of the ruins of Fort de Chartres; the chapter is entitled "The eco-